

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 IO-10 /080 W

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R 270847Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7664

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

REF: SEOUL 8580

1. ROK PRESS DECEMBER 17 NOTED THAT MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO LEE BYUNG-HUI VISITED PRIMIN MIKI DEC 26 TO CONVEY LETTER FROM PRIMIN KIM AND ALSO MET WITH FONMIN MIYAZAWA. PRESS REPORTED THAT LEE HAD RAISED ISSUE OF DEACTIVATION MUN SE-KWANG INVESTIGATION (REFTEL) AND OTHER CURRENT ISSUES IN ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS.

2. MOFA NORTHEAST ASIA DIVISION I CHIEF WOO MUN-KI TOLD EMBOFF THAT KIM LETTER WAS PRO FORMA MESSAGE CONGRATULATING MIKI ON INAUGURATION AND HAD BEEN DRAFTED DEC 18, SAME DAY THAT LEE LEFT FOR JAPAN. HE SAID DETAILS OF LEE'S DISCUSSIONS NOT YET RECEIVED BUT THAT LEE WAS NOT MAKING SPECIFIC ROKG RESPONSE TO INVESTIGATION CUTOFF.

3. WOO SAID THAT AMBASSADOR KIM YONG-SON IS MEETING WITH MIYAZAWA AND AMBASSADOR USHIROKU IS MEETING WITH FONMIN KIM DEC 27 AT ROK REQUEST TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ISSUES, INCLUDING REPORTED GOJ
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DICISION TO REFRAIN FROM MAKING EXIM BANK LOANS TO

NORTH KOREA, AND TO MAKE FORMAL ROKG RESPONSE ON MUN CASE. ACCORDING TO WOO ROK WILL BE ASKING THAT JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY MAKE STATEMENT THAT INVESTIGATION INTO MUN CASE WILL CONTINUE EVEN THOUGH HEADQUARTERS SHUT DOWN. WOO SAID THAT IF JAPANESE DECLINE TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT, THERE COULD BE A FURTHER "PROBLEM" IN ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS. HOWEVER, WOO EXPECTS THAT GOJ WILL MEET THE ROKG REQUEST.

4. WOO ADDED THAT IF JAPANESE GIVE ASSURANCE INVESTIGATION WILL CONTINUE, IF ROKG REMAINS COVINCED THAT CHOSEN SOREN'S ACTIVITIES WILL BE RESTRICTED AS "PLEDGED" BY SHIINA IN SEPTEMBER, AND IF EXIM BANK LOANS ARE NOT EXTENDED TO NORTH KOREA, MAJOR BARRIERS TO IMPROVED ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS WILL BE OVERCOME. HE SAID THAT WHILE MANY PROBLEMS EXIST, ROKG IS HOPEFUL OF JAPANESE COOPERATION AND THAT IN ATMOSPHERE OF IMPROVED RELATIONS THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT TWO IMPRISONED JAPANESE WOULD BE RELEASED AFTER COMPLETION OF JUDICIAL PROCESS.

SNEIDER

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30 JUN 2005

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